

# HE Organized FARMER

Vol. 23



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No. 14

## DON'T PLACE A BET ON THE FARMERS IN MARKET TUG-OF-WAR

### Their End of the Rope is Heavily Greased

By Ed Nelson, FUA President

The first of these studies showed that our farm population has dropped very greatly, and that this drop is mainly in the small farmer group. The second study showed that production has not dropped. The remaining farmers are producing more. This has resulted in more gross returns per farmer, but no net increase. The farmer has no more money left over because he has not shared in the general increase in prices.

The second study showed that an increase in total production offers little hope for our farm people (even though it is possible) because of limited markets. Increased production is not the answer. It will result only in lower prices. We must look for some other method.

**What about the next step, after the food is produced —marketing? Is there an answer here? Would it help farmers if they took over marketing?**

What is marketing? It is taking goods to a place where buyer and seller meet, and there, by a process of bargaining, coming to a price which is agreeable to both. This means that both must have a voice in making the deal. The seller says "this is my price" and the buyer says "this is what I will pay." If they cannot come to a common price, each one looks for someone else to bargain with, until he finds someone who is willing to deal at his price.

#### Many Boards Operating

In a great many places in Canada, farmers have banded together to form one single agency,

position to another. It made it possible for farmers to double and sometimes triple their incomes by no longer being at the mercy of a few drovers. The A.L.C. sets the marketing standards today. But, so long as one farmer markets outside the A.L.C. the gross income of all Alberta farmers can and often is lower than necessary. We have moved from A to B. Perhaps we should be moving to C.

**District 1:** M. Nikolaychuk, Woking returned as alternate FUA director; Mrs. Martha Scriba, of Heart Valley returned as alternate FWUA director; Mrs. T. Preuss, Grande Prairie is secretary.

**District 2:** H. Hibbard, Nampa, returned as FUA director; E. F. Iddins, Brownvale, re-elected alternate FUA director; Mrs. Edna Walker, Hines Creek, returned as FWUA director; Mrs. R. Grant, Brownvale, elected as alternate FWUA director. Mrs. B. Chapman, Fairview, is secretary of District 2.

**District 3:** Re-elected by acclamation: Dobson Lea, Jarvie, FUA director; Tony Balay, Rochester, re-elected alternate FUA director; Mrs. H. James, Manola, re-elected Freedom, alternate FWUA director; Stanley Chileen, Picardville,

In our last issue we were able to give some results of elections held at District conventions. Here are more results:

**Your President Reports on District Conventions . . .**

## Why Five Years Became the Best of My Life

### INDIA SELF-SUFFICIENT?

The Indian minister of food and agriculture has said that his country in the next 5 to 10 years will need no more food aid from U.S.

### It Is Encouraging To See Improvement

By Ed Nelson, FUA President

The District Conventions are over for another year. Districts 13 and 14 broke tradition and held their conventions in March instead of the usual middle of June. The result was an increase in attendance and apparent increase in interest. It seems to me that this was a good move and should be considered by other districts.

The other change was to hold two conventions on the same day with the vice-presidents attending one, and the presidents the other. This procedure might very well be stepped up to include more of the executive members and so reduce the number of days required for the district conventions. About the only objection that I can see to this procedure is that it limits the number of people who will get a crack at the president. However, this may be overcome by making it possible for him to attend more meetings throughout the year and thus expose him to more local people than is possible in a district convention. These are matters for the board to look at for next year and they now have more experience to go on than has been available in the past.

Now for the conventions themselves. The easy thing to say is: "they were good," "they were well attended," etc., etc. I do not think that is good enough and I shall try to give you my interpretation of those I attended.

#### Value of "Issues" Doubtful

To begin with, districts 6 and 7 were the most poorly attended from the standpoint of local representation and potential. District 10 had probably the best attendance, although 1, 2, 3, 5, 11 and 13 were right up near the top.

Attendance is subject to two things, the weather and general interest. The weather we can do little about except to try to sched-

up, in the hope of increasing prices therefore must control surplus, either by quotas, or simply by marketing surpluses separately.

#### Stomach Capacity Limited

We must also remember this. There is sale for only so much food in Canada, which is by far our largest market. If we have a surplus of pork, and sell it by cutting prices or by a powerful advertising campaign, we will only succeed if people stop buying beef and chicken, and buy more pork. We will not put more money in the producer's pocket. We will only take it from one producer and give it to another.

(Continued on Page 3)

**District 6:** Dan Sharon, Innisfree, elected FUA director; Steve Melnyk, Myrnam, elected alternate FUA director; Mrs. L. Scraha, Andrew, re-elected FWUA director; Mrs. Alice Woychuk, Andrew, elected FWUA alternate director.

**District 8:** Secretary-treasurer is Mrs. M. Bruce, Sedgewick.

**District 10:** Elected alternate FUA director, Howard Roppel, Rockyford; re-elected alternate FWUA director, Mrs. Wayne Gillette, Red Deer.

**District 11:** Harry Gordon, Rose Lynn, elected FUA director; James Cameron, Youngstown, elected alternate FUA director; Mrs. Russell Johnston, Excel, re-elected FWUA director; Mrs. George Fawcett, Consort, re-elected FWUA alternate director. Dick Orford, Rose Lynn, is secretary.

**District 12:** Re-elected alternate FUA director Doug Galbraith, Vulcan. Re-elected FWUA director, Mrs. O. Lange, Claresholm.

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# District Reports in a Peanut Shell

Your president has given his impressions of the district conventions he attended. Here follows some factual information about the conventions.

## DISTRICT I

District 1 met in the Speke Hall at Grande Prairie. One hundred and seventy-six people attended the meeting. This was 69 more than last year. There were 104 FUA delegates and 21 FWUA delegates.

Mr. Ed Nelson, Mrs. C. R. Braithwaite and Jerald Hutchinson spoke to the convention. Both Mr. Nelson and Mrs. Braithwaite were given a small presentation in sincere gratitude of the district for their tremendous contributions to the farming people of the province and District 1 in particular.

## DISTRICT II

Eighty delegates, representing 22 FUA locals and 6 FWUA locals, attended the District 2 convention in St. Paul's United Church, Peace River.

Resolutions dealing with flooding of the Whitemud river, welfare payments, school bus stops, and one requesting stationing of a district agriculturist in or near Peace River carried with a good majority. The constitutional amendment, reading that all FUA officials be limited to terms of office of five years, carried unanimously.

All FWUA sub-district but two gave reports of their activities. Sub-district teams will be set up very shortly. Zoel Cote and Sam Simpson, winners of the tour to Ottawa, were introduced to the meeting. Mr. Simpson's report was received with great interest. A motion that the tour be continued carried.

During the course of the meeting Mrs. Braithwaite was presented by the District 2 FWUA with a large vase made of Peace River clay.

## DISTRICT III

Seventy-four delegates registered for the District 3 convention, held in the community hall at Rochester. About 30 visitors and officials were present as well.

A keenly contested trophy was presented to P. Chaban, Rochester-Caribou Range FUA local, for the best presented report of the local's activities during the year.

J. Hutchinson, Jr. FUA president, gave a very interesting report on Junior activities in the province.

Mrs. C. R. Braithwaite mentioned the Hon. Irene Parlby Scholarship Fund, the Citizenship Camp at Gold Eye this summer and the general program of the camp in the coming months. She gave an interesting and detailed account of the many ways the FUA membership fees are spent and spoke on

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three contentious issues: crop insurance, marketing boards and public ownership of power. He felt that a lot of farm problems are not brought before the legislature simply because farm people do not do their home work. He specifically stressed the need to go to the MLA's as organized locals, not as individuals.

Jerald Hutchinson brought the delegates up-to-date on the progress at Gold Eye Lake camp.

Highlight of the day was a panel discussion on FU and CDA — its purpose, functions and objectives. Mr. Wilf Hoppins, UFA Co-op, acted as moderator. Members of the panel were: Mr. Allan Gibson, Alberta Wheat Pool, who dealt specifically with the role of co-operatives; Mrs. Braithwaite on the needs of the community, and Mr. Nelson, outlining the purpose of FU & CDA, which is primarily to strengthen the basic organization, the Farmers' Union of Alberta.

All 20 resolutions presented were dealt with. Seventeen passed.

## DISTRICT XII

A large crowd of about 130 people attended the convention of District 12 at the Champion Community Hall.

Mr. Clare Anderson, FUA vice-president, spoke about the change of boundaries for different FUA districts. He felt that farmers could help themselves in some instances by working together in a better way. Where farms are not too large, farming equipment might be used jointly. Mr. Anderson also stressed the need of making use of co-operatives, and pointed out how savings on investment could be made.

Mrs. Dowhaniuk, FU & CDA director, spoke on the new set up of county boards which will be tried in those districts where FU and CDA is working.

The 1964 convention will be held at Stony Plain. This fall, before the membership drive, a district dinner will be organized.

## DISTRICT VIII

District 8 had chosen the school auditorium in Forestburg as the meeting place for this year's convention. There were over 100 delegates, officials, guests and visitors present, slightly below last year's attendance.

Guest speakers were Mr. Clare Anderson, vice-president of the FUA; Mrs. Florence Hallum, 2nd vice-president of the FWUA; Eugene Elm, vice-president of the Jr. FUA, and Mr. J. W. McKay, director of safety, Highway Traffic Board.

A number of resolutions were dealt with. None of them passed unanimously.

Under the new boundary set-up, District 8 will consist of four sub-districts. The sub-district directors elected are: Flagstaff, Thos. Bruce, Sedgewick; Camrose, Jas. Holmberg, Rosalind; Stettler, John Ross, Gadsby. The sub-district director for Paintearth will be elected at a later date.

## DISTRICT X

District 10 had a record attendance with 31 FUA and 18 FWUA locals represented. The meeting was held at the Olds Agricultural Vocational College.

Mr. Wilkins briefly outlined the course of study now available at this college. As our farm cycle is changing, so the cycle in education needs to keep up with the changing times.

Mrs. Braithwaite reminded members how in 1949 District 10 had only 600 individual members. In 1963 it has 3276 unit memberships. As District 10 was the first district to form an FWUA, could it be that women of the district might be credited for part of this progress, she asked.

Mr. Nelson stated that the Alberta legislature hasn't dealt with

## THE BEST FIVE YEARS

(Continued from Page 1)

### NFU Forgotten

ordination of the efforts of all three, that is Wheat Pool, UFA Co-op and FUA, and the financing of it should not be based on any division of the three but rather on the simplest way to make the necessary money available.

For myself, because I do the largest portion of my personal business through the Wheat Pool, it would be logical that my largest contribution to the AFA should come from this source. However, I think the resolution had another purpose. I think it was aimed at the fact that the FUA pays more money to the National Farmers' Union than it does to the AFA. This is another matter entirely and I believe everyone should be concerned with it. There should have been resolutions dealing with it. This becomes a matter of policy and decides the role and the purpose of the FUA, AFA, CFA, and NFU. I am disappointed that not one resolution came forward dealing directly with this question.

### Not Enough Study

So I have completed the last of my district convention tours as President of the FUA. My biggest disappointment was the obvious fact that not enough objective or positive study is made by locals of the issues they raise. There is still too much partisanship showing through and not enough thought or knowledge given to the really important things. The encouragement is in the fact that there is much improvement over the past. There were many signs at several conventions that people were really serious about developing better and more objective techniques in dealing with their problems.

Personally, of course, I will never cease to wonder at the wonderful reception I have had from all the members over the five years. Never has anyone made me feel they held any ill feelings towards me. Many have expressed differences of opinion, but in the friendliest way. All of this makes it possible for me to look back on what will undoubtedly be five of the best years of my life.

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## MISCELLANEOUS

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## Gold Eye Gave Juniors Free, Easy Feeling

That first venture to hold the Jr. FUA convention at Gold Eye Lake Camp, located in the beautiful country near Nordegg, has been a success. It was, perhaps that feeling of being outdoors, which made the tongues of the juniors somewhat more loose, resulting in a lively convention.

Thirty delegates were registered and as many senior officials and visitors. Resolutions passed included a donation of \$500 to the Banff Leadership Technique Course. Another expressed the value of exchange visits. A third resolution requested a date for Farm Young People's Week which does not conflict with school exams. The election of a Junior Queen candidate will be held next year at the Jr. annual convention instead of during FYPW. A recommendation was made to the 1964 Jr. Board to organize again a raffle for Gold Eye Lake Camp.

The Junior FUA Queen, Ardyth Simpson, Fairview, was present, and reported on the Queen Contest.

There was a panel discussion on Organization with Mr. W. Hop-

pins, manager of the U.F.A. Co-op as moderator; and Gordon Moss, C. J. Versluis, R. Page and W. Hallum, participating.

Jerald Hutchison was re-elected as Jr. FUA president by acclamation. Ken Jensen of Ponoka was elected by acclamation as vice-president. District 2 elected Frank Schaff, Brownvale, as Jr. director again, with Ken Allen, Fairview as alternate. District 9 elected Doreen Nelson, Brightview, as Jr. director; and Cecil Hoven, Eckville, as alternate.

Other districts either did not have enough delegates present to elect their director, or had elected them at the district conventions.

The banquet was a gala occasion with a splendid meal. Mr. Hoppins, Mr. Lien, educational director UFA Co-op; Mr. Moss, supervisor of the UGG field service; Mrs. Braithwaite, FWUA president, and Bev Currie, the Saskatchewan Jr. president, spoke briefly.

Mrs. Jasman played the piano for a sing song. There was dancing and even a card game during the evening.

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## No Arrogance In Ottawa

## Answers Missing Also

By Ed Nelson, FUA President

Alf Gleave and other members of the National Farmers' Union executive including myself, made a policy submission to the Federal Government on Wednesday, July 3rd. This was a routine business intended to get acquainted and to familiarize the new cabinet with N.F.U. policy.

I was impressed with the new cabinet to the extent that they showed no signs of arrogance in their attitude either to us or in the House. I sometimes think that cabinet ministers feel they must create a shell of indifference or develop a chippy attitude as a protective device, which they use unintentionally, but this Cabinet indicates that they are anxious to do things.

Beyond that, I felt a great disappointment. They had few, if any, answers to any problems. They have obviously rushed into things, as in the case of the budget, without enough forethought and planning.

## Pack of Hounds

As a result, the eastern press is baying at their heels like a pack of hounds with the scent of blood. This can only speed the demoralization process and does not auger well for a trend to more stable or positive government action. I am sure the main sufferers, as a consequence, will be the farmers.

## MARKET TUG-OF-WAR

(Continued from Page 1)

The overall increase is zero.

This means that we must measure our markets—our home market, and our possible export markets—and try to produce just what those markets will absorb. Otherwise, prices will remain low, because we have no single selling agency, and so no control of surplus. As individual producers, farmers have very little bargaining power. Can their own board do the job for them?

## Other Avenue

One other method that has been used in varying degrees all over the world to increase agricultural income, is government subsidies, or transfers out of taxes, to the farmers, to equalize farm income with non-farm income, or to encourage certain increases in production that government policies require.

Some examples are:

1. Acreage payments—to supplement a recognized low income from grain sales.

2. Quality premiums on A grade hogs—to encourage quality production.

3. P.F.R.A.—To assist permanent development.

Whatever form these subsidies take they provide a part of the gross input or income to farmers. Their limitations are strictly political and depend to a large extent on the amount of political influence the farmers have. With the percentage of farmers, in relation to the total population declining this influence will become steadily less.

## Balance Sheet

It is therefore increasingly important to accompany every request for a subsidy, with more than an ordinary statement of need. We must present an economic balance sheet to show the end result to be a national gain, as well as a farm gain. In terms of

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Hays is optimistic and believes he can develop an acceptable farm policy. If the bloom of his enthusiasm doesn't wear off too soon, he just might be the man that can do it. At any rate he is not inhibited by protocol, not yet.

## "No Difficulties . . ."

We did voice concern to the cabinet about the practicality of two ministers of agriculture and were assured that there would be no administrative difficulties. I am still sceptical.

We held only short meetings with the members as they were quite busy while we were there. One thing is noticeable — The benches in the Commons are not nearly as empty as I have seen them in the past. The rank and file back-benchers were less partisan than usual and I did sense an air of urgency on all sides to "get on with the job."

## No Optimism

As a result of our visit I must say, I saw little to be overly optimistic about. The large crop expected for Saskatchewan and Manitoba will not improve the outlook. There seems to be no prospect for an open quota, which means that some areas will go into the new crop year with last year's grain still on the farm. It looks like another wholesale shift to hogs with the inevitable lower prices. My hope is that we are looking at the worst and that it can only get better.

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During July and August no meetings will be held.

• RED DEER made a grant of Gold Eye from July 21 to July 27. Guest speaker was Mr. Gilchrist who spoke about horticulture. Mrs. Guilbault, who attended the convention at Olds, gave a very informative report. The meeting was held at the home of Mrs. J. Miller. No meetings will be held in July and August.

• DRUMHELLER-EAST appointed Mrs. Alex Leonhardt and Mrs. J. Adie as representatives at the sub-district board. The names of Marilyn Chambers and Elmer Steward were submitted to attend Gold Eye Lake camp. A real effort will be made to attend Farm Women's Week at Olds for one or more days in an attempt to keep this week alive. Mrs. Jas. Gaschitz and Mrs. Bruce Wade were appointed CAC conveners.

• H H FOUR POINT listened to a whole series of reports on: community projects, community picnic, senior birthday party, Farmers' Day picnic. Mrs. Rye reported on the District 10 convention at Olds. A strawberry social is planned for August 7 in place of the regular meeting. Twelve members attended the meeting held at the home of Mrs. A. Davis.

## F.U.A. LOCALS

• SWEDEBORO is quite satisfied with the Farmers' Day picnic held at Stoney Lake. Suggestions to make it still better were accepted and recorded for future reference. A donation was made towards the prizes the Stoney Lake Stampede Association will give during the Stampede. The motion was made by Mike Demchuk and seconded by Edwin Nelson. Fifteen members attended the meeting.

• AMISK heard very good district convention reports from Oliver Peddicord and Allan Johnson. Stu Duncan, district agriculturist gave an extremely interesting talk about the proper care of trees around the home. He also stressed the importance of a good lawn. The meeting was held at the home of Millet Shawley. Fourteen members were present.

## F.W.U.A. HI-LITES

• FAIRDONIAN VALLEY passed a motion to sponsor a girl or boy to the Citizenship Camp at Gold Eye. On an afternoon in July the local will entertain the guests at the Lodge.

• GWINNE listened to a report on Farm Young People's Week by Brian Carlson. He was jointly sponsored by the Gwynne FWUA and FUA to attend that week at the U. of A., Edmonton. The meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Stanford Berg.

• RED DEER LAKE reported a profit of \$144.25. The local will award a medal and a \$15. cash prize to the top grade nine pupil.

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Look at some of the decisions which skillfully keep U.G.G.'s country elevator system the most efficient in Canada.

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bushels capacity, but need only two agents. One head office and one field staff where three existed before. Less cost to the farmer. United Grain Growers' 770 elevators are composed of

elevators that were once owned by 17 other companies.

U.G.G. will dismantle and rebuild an elevator, or lift it up in one piece and transport it by truck or rail. Look at the elevator at Manning, Alberta. It is built like new from materials salvaged out of a dismantled elevator from Grimshaw. This 150,000 bushel giant is reputed to be the biggest country elevator under one roof in Canada . . . and Peace River Country farmers filled it the week it opened.



U.G.G. wants to provide real Farmers' Company competition at certain points. At Portage la Prairie, where competitors have been strongly entrenched for decades; U.G.G. opened last year and already Portage farmers have delivered thousands of bushels to this fine new 150,000 bushel composite elevator.



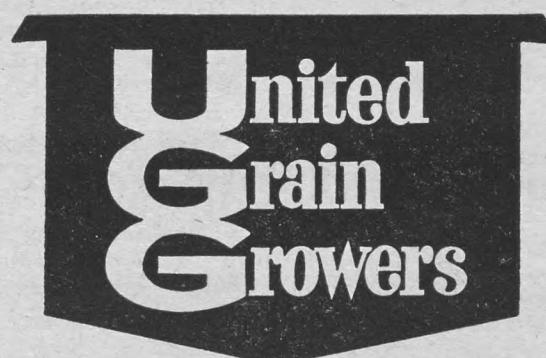
U.G.G. rebuilds or adds annexes wherever grain production justifies such action. Look at Carrot River, Saskatchewan. U.G.G. built in 1939 just after farmers first opened up the area. During the war, annexes were built in a hurry to save surplus grain that was piling up. In 1952, a new elevator was needed and built. Since then, the new surplus made it necessary to add annexes to both elevators. U.G.G. capacity at Carrot River is now 337,000 bushels.

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